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Tuesday, 5 June 2018

(10.00 am)

Housekeeping

LADY SMITH: Good morning. Mr MacAulay?

MR MacAULAY: Yes, good morning, my Lady. Today we have a mixture of a read-in and oral evidence. But before I look at that, there was another witness, a lay witness who was due to come to give evidence today, using the pseudonym "Ian". He hasn't appeared. My understanding is that he has health problems and he has been asked to produce a doctor's letter to that effect because, of course, he is subject to a Section 21 notice and he should really have been here today.

LADY SMITH: Yes. It's always a matter of concern if a witness doesn't turn up in response to a Section 21 notice in circumstances where they haven't provided any satisfactory medical or other certification of an inability to do so. I am aware that -- I think he has been in touch by telephone -- not that that is good enough, actually -- but in the circumstances I will put on hold doing anything about his failure to be here in response to the Section 21 notice in the hope that matters will become clearer, either by certification or being able to arrange for his attendance another day. No doubt you'll keep me informed, Mr MacAulay.

1 MR MacAULAY: Yes.

2 My Lady will also recall that last week we had  
3 difficulty in technology in trying to get a witness by  
4 way of video link. She now has some additional personal  
5 problems and we've decided simply to have her statement  
6 read in. That'll be the first thing this morning.

7 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

8 Just before we turn to that, to explain to those who  
9 were here on Friday and experienced the frustration of  
10 a connection that didn't work with Aberdeen, could  
11 I assure everybody that we did immediately make  
12 enquiries about what the problem was, some quite  
13 detailed enquiries. I have had a written report about  
14 what went wrong. It was not at this end, I'm delighted  
15 to say; there was a problem in Aberdeen, which arose on  
16 Friday, although the system had been tested twice last  
17 week before we tried to run it on Friday. We're taking  
18 steps to ensure that doesn't happen again when next we  
19 need to use a video link.

20 But I apologise again to people who feel that they  
21 were messed around as well, but I was, of course,  
22 particularly concerned about the inconvenience to this  
23 witness. It was not good for her and it's not the way  
24 the inquiry likes to work. But we do have her written  
25 statement and I will now invite Ms MacLeod to read that.

1                   Witness statement of "MARY" (read)

2           MS MACLEOD: The statement is at WIT.001.001.4827:

3                   "My name is Mary. I was born in 1957. My contact  
4                   details are known to the inquiry."

5                   In paragraphs 2 and 3 of the statement Mary  
6                   describes living in Aberdeen with her parents and  
7                   siblings. She tells that her mother died suddenly in  
8                   1964 and that she and her two sisters went to  
9                   Nazareth House in Aberdeen, having been told they were  
10                  going on holiday.

11                  The admissions register for Aberdeen show the  
12                  witness going in for around five weeks in [REDACTED] and  
13                  [REDACTED] 1965 and then again between [REDACTED] and  
14                  [REDACTED] 1968:

15                  "It was a great big house. There was a playground  
16                  outside the home where we were allowed to play on the  
17                  swings. There were lots of children in there when  
18                  I arrived and they were all different ages. There was  
19                  a canteen on the ground floor and the children in my  
20                  dorm had a sitting room with a TV in it. The laundry  
21                  room was next to the sitting room.

22                  "My dad had told us we were going there on holiday  
23                  and I thought this was an adventure. I had just a doll  
24                  and a case with me. The doll was special to me as it  
25                  was the last present my mum gave to me. We were taken

1 to the front room of Nazareth House. This was like  
2 a parlour.

3 "I remember the Mother Superior came to meet us --  
4 I cannot remember her name -- and introduced us to  
5 Sister [REDACTED] LTX My father disappeared. My case and my  
6 doll were taken off me as well as the clothes I was  
7 wearing. I was taken into another room and put into  
8 clothes given to me by the nuns. I was crying because  
9 my doll was taken away and Sister [REDACTED] LTX told me, 'You  
10 shut up, you're in here because your mother died and  
11 nobody wants you'. I was never able to grieve for my  
12 mum and I could never show any emotion.

13 "I was put in a dorm room with other children and  
14 there were six or eight of us in the room. My older  
15 sister was not put in the same dorm as me. At the start  
16 I remember there were young twins and a young girl.  
17 I don't know what happened to the twins as they  
18 disappeared suddenly. The girl used to scream and  
19 I don't know what happened to her either. I couldn't  
20 have asked what happened to them, I would have just been  
21 thumped by the nuns.

22 "We had a metal bed each with a really thin mattress  
23 on it. I don't remember us having anywhere to put our  
24 clothes at night. The floors were made of a shiny  
25 stone. Across from our room, at the end of the

1 corridor, there was a bathroom with baths and toilets.  
2 Downstairs there were sinks and a footbath. I was too  
3 scared to use the toilets because there were mice  
4 running around. I used to wet the bed at night as I was  
5 too scared to go to the toilet.

6 "We were woken up at 5.30 in the morning and had to  
7 make our bed and fold our counterpanes to the bottom of  
8 the bed. Then we had to clean the bedroom before we  
9 went to church. There was a buffer to polish the floor.  
10 It was a big piece of metal with pads on the bottom.  
11 I was so small I couldn't do it properly. If you'd wet  
12 the bed in the night, you got put in a cold bath before  
13 church. After church we went back to Nazareth House for  
14 breakfast before we went to school. We had to fast  
15 before church. This was the routine and I was always  
16 tired, cold and hungry.

17 "At 8 o'clock it was bedtime and we had to say our  
18 prayers before going to bed. We washed our faces and  
19 brushed our teeth but no one checked if we had done it.  
20 The nuns were good at checking our underwear and the  
21 sheets for urine.

22 "We were made to sleep in a certain position, with  
23 our hands crossed. They would check and if you didn't  
24 sleep in that position you'd get thumped.

25 "The food was served in the canteen on the ground

1 floor. Breakfast was always porridge. If you didn't  
2 eat it all, it would be waiting for you at night-time  
3 for your evening meal. There wasn't time in the  
4 mornings before the school bus for the nuns to force us  
5 to eat the porridge at breakfast time.

6 "There were six tables and a hatch where we got the  
7 food from. There was porridge and toast on a Sunday.  
8 Sister [REDACTED] LTX gave out the food along with  
9 [REDACTED] FAJ Two groups of children ate their food  
10 together. There were boys at one side of the room and  
11 girls were on the other.

12 "We went back to Nazareth House at lunchtime to eat  
13 and then went back to school for the afternoon. We had  
14 stew at lunchtime. It was full of fat and I hated it.  
15 Sometimes there was fish boiled in milk and I hated it  
16 too. Again, we had to go up the hatch to have the food  
17 put on our plates. The nuns did not have the time to  
18 force me to eat the food at lunchtime.

19 "When we came back to the home after school we were  
20 given bread and jam to eat. We then had to do our  
21 homework. At night-time the nuns had time to force us  
22 to eat the food we wouldn't eat earlier on and it had  
23 been left lying on a plate. They would force it into  
24 our mouths and you would be sick as a result and bring  
25 it back up and they'd force it back in. You'd be forced

1 to put your hands behind your back. There are still  
2 some foods now that I can't eat, like Dairylea cheese  
3 and fish.

4 "We had a bath by ourselves every night, even if  
5 you'd had one in the morning. The baths were  
6 individual; the water was cold. We didn't have to share  
7 the bathwater with other children. There were tubs of  
8 black stuff the nuns put in the bathwater that changed  
9 the water cloudy and white and it would stink. I later  
10 found out this was Jeyes fluid that you would clean  
11 drains with. They washed our hair with it too and  
12 checked for nits. We washed ourselves with red carbolic  
13 soap and no one checked that we washed ourselves  
14 properly. I can't remember if we had our own towel or  
15 if we had to share.

16 "I could hear children screaming because they were  
17 being dragged into a cold bath. We also had to wash our  
18 feet in the footbath. The girls all wore the same  
19 uniform of big, wide Pringle skirts and cardigans during  
20 the day. Under the cardigan we wore a liberty bodice  
21 with rubber buttons. On a feast day we wore a kilt.

22 "A new set of clothes was given to us from the  
23 laundry room every two days. We would go to the linen  
24 room to get our clothes stitched and pick up your clean  
25 uniform every two days. This was where we picked up our

1 shoes from a big box in the morning. These were brown  
2 brogues and they were called "eagles". My shoes were  
3 too big for my tiny feet and they used to rub my feet  
4 and give me blisters. The kids at school made fun of  
5 these shoes and the noise they made when you walked.

6 "My daily release was going to school. I went to  
7 a Catholic school called St Peter's in Nelson Street in  
8 Aberdeen. We had to travel on our own school bus to get  
9 there as it was some distance away. If the girls even  
10 looked at their brothers on the bus, they'd get in  
11 trouble. There was no interaction with siblings of the  
12 opposite sex allowed on the bus or in school. Boys and  
13 girls were separated at school and we had different  
14 playing areas. They would only see each other if they  
15 were on the field as this was a big area.

16 "The other kids at St Peter's called us the 'Nazzy  
17 kids' or the 'homey kids'.

18 "I used to see my two sisters at school. One of my  
19 sisters had special needs and in those days she was  
20 considered to be backward. I used to worry about her as  
21 she couldn't cope with normal school.

22 "The headteacher was called Mr LFA [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 "I always remember the teacher who was for remedial

1 kids. I was dyslexic so I was in her class. If I got  
2 things wrong on the blackboard, I got into trouble. She  
3 would hit you with a blackboard duster. As bad as it  
4 was at school, I hated the thought of returning to  
5 Nazareth House. Thinking about it gave me stomachache.

6 "If you didn't do your homework right you'd get  
7 battered for it. Sister [REDACTED] LTX and [REDACTED] FAJ would  
8 check the spelling in our homework. I wasn't a clever  
9 kid and I was dyslexic and I got my homework wrong a  
10 lot. There was no encouragement to try to get it right.  
11 A friend from school let me copy her homework. Someone  
12 told the teacher are and I got belted at school by the  
13 head as a result and he told the nuns, so I got punished  
14 at the home too.

15 "The schoolteachers would report to the nuns on our  
16 behaviour so if we were in trouble at school we would be  
17 in trouble at Nazareth House too. We had that thought  
18 hanging over us at school for when we went back.

19 "There was a yard at Nazareth House. There were  
20 just two swings. We were allowed to play games in the  
21 yard when you had done our homework. There was  
22 a playroom inside. We could talk in there, but I don't  
23 remember any toys. We were allowed to watch a TV in the  
24 downstairs sitting room that was for the children in my  
25 dorm. We did our homework in the playroom as it had

1 long tables. We had to go into the sitting room to  
2 kneel on the carpet to say the rosary. We had to say  
3 a lot of prayers. The nuns controlled what we watched  
4 on TV and they wanted us to watch things like  
5 Val Doonican. Sister [REDACTED] FAF went nuts when she  
6 caught us watch Top of the Pops.

7 "We went to the beach in Aberdeen a couple of times  
8 in the summer holidays. The nuns had a little chalet  
9 there. We had to carry the white bread bins full of the  
10 sandwiches to the beach and it was a long walk. We were  
11 put in the water no matter what the weather was like.  
12 We didn't go away anywhere else for the holidays.

13 "We went to midnight Mass at church at Christmas,  
14 but there was no celebration and no presents or special  
15 food. On a feast day I might get given an apple or an  
16 orange. You'd get a holy photograph and a little medal.  
17 My gran wasn't allowed to visit at Christmas or send  
18 presents because she made a fuss about my hair being cut  
19 short. The nuns had told her not to come back and they  
20 made excuses for me not going on a visit, such as me  
21 being ill. My gran told me this after I left care.

22 "Our birthdays did not get celebrated. I didn't  
23 know when my birthday was; I just knew it was some time  
24 in the month of May.

25 "At the start my granny used to visit me and my

1 sisters on a Sunday. We were allowed two hours with  
2 her. She used to take us to her house and gave us  
3 chocolate to take back. I used to cry because I didn't  
4 want to go back to Nazareth House. I used to get  
5 a battering when I went back for crying.

6 "My granny fell out with the nuns because I was so  
7 upset and because they cut my hair. She soon stopped  
8 visiting us. There weren't many visits before she  
9 stopped coming. My granny couldn't take us out of  
10 Nazareth House as it was my father who put us in there  
11 and he was the only one who could take us out.

12 "I never saw a social worker when I was at  
13 Nazareth House. The only visits I ever got were from my  
14 granny when I was first there.

15 "I remember a woman called Janice who used to come  
16 in to see the children. She wasn't a nun and she wasn't  
17 a staff member. She was lovely and she used to brush my  
18 hair. I loved her. I think she might have had some  
19 learning difficulties. She stopped visiting us and  
20 I was told she was killed by a motorbike.

21 Sister [REDACTED] LTX used to make fun of her too.

22 "There was someone called Dr Billy who came into  
23 Nazareth House to see people who were ill. I never had  
24 to see him myself. I didn't want to be ill because that  
25 meant that I'd have to stay home for the day. Sometimes

1 I had warts on my hands and they were burnt off by the  
2 nurse using some black stuff.

3 "I have no memory of ever seeing a dentist.

4 "Sister [REDACTED] LTX had her own bedroom across the  
5 corridor from the dorm. She slept there overnight.  
6 During the night she would check our sheets to see if we  
7 had wet the bed. If you had wet the bed at night you  
8 had to stand by your bed with the wet sheet on your head  
9 or hours until it was time to get up. Then you would  
10 have to wash your own sheets. My sister tried to swap  
11 sheets with me and wash my sheets for me and she got  
12 battered for this. She was older than me and was  
13 stronger to take the punishments.

14 "When I first went to Nazareth House, I was paired  
15 with a buddy straightaway and made to work. My buddy  
16 at the start was an older girl and she got to show me  
17 the routine. I was told to help her fold the  
18 counterpanes for the beds and I couldn't do it right  
19 because they were so big and I was so tiny. I then  
20 realised this wasn't a holiday.

21 "I went into the laundry room and I saw my doll.  
22 I went to grab it because it was mine and I got a slap  
23 from Sister [REDACTED] LTX. After that, it was one thing  
24 after another from her.

25 "I was always called by my surname and the nuns

1 didn't use my first name. They referred to us as  
2 'tinks'. We were all given a number to identify us and  
3 I remember my number. The number was written into all  
4 my clothes. You had to always remember to use that  
5 number and I had to get my sister to remember it for me.

6 "My sister took beatings for me. You got beatings  
7 for everything. Even if you lost your socks you'd get  
8 a beating. If your tie went missing, you tried to steal  
9 someone else's so you wouldn't get a beating. It was  
10 just surviving.

11 "We had to wash our ankle socks at night and dry  
12 them on the pipes and the radiator in the dorm.  
13 Sometimes I lost my socks. It was easy to lose them --  
14 it was easy to lose your tie as well.

15 "As well as Sister [REDACTED] LTX I remember  
16 Sister [REDACTED] FAF who was an older nun who was Irish;  
17 she was really, really horrible. You would know if  
18 Sister [REDACTED] LTX was going to batter you as she would rub  
19 her hands together. She was only ever good to you when  
20 there were important visitors or it was a feast day.  
21 The bishop would come to visit us on feast days. Also  
22 there was [REDACTED] FAJ who was a staff member [REDACTED]  
23 [REDACTED] She used to hit the  
24 children as well as the nuns.

25 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED] Sister [REDACTED] LTX  
2 favourites would tell tales on us so we had that fear  
3 hanging over us too.

4 "My hair was really long when I first went into  
5 Nazareth House. A family came in and their hair was  
6 full of lice. I got lice in my hair from them.  
7 Sister [REDACTED] LTX poured scalding hot water on my hair and  
8 washed my hair with Jeyes fluid. Then [REDACTED] FAJ cut all my  
9 hair off short. They told me, 'You won't get lice  
10 again'. As a result of this treatment, the rest of my  
11 hair fell out and never grew back. My dermatologist,  
12 Dr [REDACTED], told me many years later that the hair  
13 follicles had died because of the scalding hot water and  
14 it will never grow back.

15 "One time Sister [REDACTED] LTX punished me for using  
16 a swear word. I don't know what word I used but she put  
17 a piece of red carbolic soap in my mouth as punishment.

18 "One day I missed the bus from school back to  
19 Nazareth House and I had to walk from school. I tried  
20 to sneak into the building through the laundry room.  
21 Sister [REDACTED] LTX caught me and shut me into the big  
22 wicker laundry basket where all the clothes went as  
23 a punishment. She closed the basket lid with the  
24 leather strap. I was shut inside the basket for a very  
25 long time and I was very frightened. I still have

1 a fear of enclosed spaces now.

2 "We all had chores to do and mine was to put the  
3 counterpanes on to all the beds in the dorms in the  
4 evening. I did this task with another girl. We had to  
5 fold the counterpanes back from the bottom of each of  
6 the beds. I also had to sweep and polish the floors  
7 using a buffer. I was too small to be able to do it  
8 properly and get the wax polished off. That was  
9 a weekend task. I remember Sister **FAF** giving me  
10 a thump for not doing the floor properly. She used to  
11 check under the beds for fluff.

12 "There was a regime of discipline, you would get  
13 thumped or get the belt that Sister **LTX** carried for  
14 anything she thought was wrong. I didn't get the belt;  
15 I just got thumped. Other kids got the belt. I was hit  
16 every day. She would hit you with her hands or with  
17 a shoe or a slipper or pull the girls by their hair.  
18 You would try to be nice to her and suck up to her to  
19 avoid being hit.

20 "Sister **LGN** treated other children badly too. She  
21 wasn't in charge of my group. She died when I was in  
22 Nazareth House.

23 "Sister **FAF** had a belt around her waist to  
24 hit us with and she used to pull you by the ear or the  
25 back of the neck or kick you. You could also get

1 a smack on your head or your body from [REDACTED] FAJ , but  
2 her abuse was more verbal.

3 "If you were in the yard when the Angelus bell went,  
4 we had to kneel down and pray. It was a regular thing  
5 and the bell was a call to prayer. If you were on the  
6 swing when the bell went you would get pulled off it by  
7 the nuns and made to kneel down to pray. There was  
8 a lot of religious instruction and we said a lot of  
9 prayers. We had to do the benediction and I quite liked  
10 that because it involved songs and singing.

11 "I remember an older girl. She had epileptic  
12 seizures. Sister [REDACTED] LTX would take her out and put  
13 her into a cold bath when she had a fit. I can remember  
14 hearing the girl crying. When she had a fit in the dorm  
15 room, she would be on the floor and Sister [REDACTED] LTX  
16 thought she was putting it on. She would make fun of  
17 the girl and kept calling her 'Mickey'. She used to  
18 say, 'Look at Mickey', and, 'Copy Mickey', and used to  
19 drag her by the hair to the bath.

20 "I remember another girl. She always seemed to be  
21 smelly as she wet herself. Before teatime,  
22 Sister [REDACTED] LTX could smell the urine and used to ask,  
23 'Who's smelling?', and, 'Who's wet themselves?'  
24 Sister [REDACTED] LTX used to get us to line up and tell us to  
25 take our underwear off and she smelled them for urine.

1 By the time she got to me I would have wet myself out of  
2 fear. If she could smell any urine, you were made to  
3 put your pants on your head.

4 "There was another girl. She was caught fighting  
5 with a boy. He was one of Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] favourites

6 [REDACTED]  
7 Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] dragged her away and dropped a sash  
8 window on to her fingers. I remember the girl  
9 screaming.

10 "I remember another girl and one morning she was on  
11 the roof threatening to jump off. We were on our way to  
12 school at the time and we were just put on the school  
13 bus and driven away. I have no idea what happened to  
14 that girl and I never saw her again.

15 "I saw Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] punish a girl when she was on  
16 the swing when the Angelus bell rang. She didn't come  
17 off the swing quickly enough to pray and she may have  
18 answered back to Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED]  
19 pulled her and pushed her face into the gravel on the  
20 ground. She was going mental about it. She broke the  
21 girl's front teeth and her mouth was covered in blood.

22 [REDACTED] FAJ [REDACTED] tried to pull Sister [REDACTED] LTX [REDACTED] away from the  
23 girl and was shouting at her. Me and the other children  
24 were taken away from the yard and I don't know what  
25 happened next.

1           "The same night I saw the girl when we were praying  
2           at the statue of Our Lady and I could see her mouth and  
3           lips were all swollen. The next day I saw her at school  
4           and she had lost her front teeth.

5           "At church there was a priest called  
6           Father Ashworth. He was really old. He had heavy  
7           breathing. I laughed at him once when he gave a sermon.  
8           I was dragged out of church by Sister [REDACTED] LTX and I was  
9           given a right good smack for that.

10          "When Sister [REDACTED] LGN died there was a funeral Mass  
11          at the church and we all had to walk past the coffin and  
12          all the children had to kiss her forehead.

13          "At the time it happened, I couldn't report the  
14          abuse to anyone as I was too scared. I told my gran and  
15          she couldn't help. Only my dad could do something about  
16          it.

17          "I'm not sure when I left Nazareth House, but  
18          I think I was about 10 years old when I left. I think  
19          I might have gone back into Nazareth House for a second  
20          time, but I'm not sure.

21          "Me and my sisters left at the same time and went  
22          back to my dad. He had got married again and moved us  
23          all to Glasgow. We lived with my dad, my stepmum and my  
24          auntie. My dad and stepmum kept fighting all the time.  
25          She was a good cook and at least she fed us.

1            "We got evicted from the flat and moved back to  
2            Aberdeen and went back to a flat. We soon got evicted  
3            again. My stepmum left my dad and we moved to another  
4            flat and got evicted again.

5            "When we got evicted from the flat, my dad took us  
6            to see the cruelty man from the NSPCC on Union Street in  
7            Aberdeen. That is what they called him in those days.  
8            My dad had begged my granny to take us both in because  
9            he couldn't manage. She refused as she couldn't cope  
10           with both of us. It was December and I remember it was  
11           snowing and there were no soles on my shoes. I was  
12           walking around with cardboard on the bottom of my shoes.

13           "My sister got sent to hospital as she was anorexic.  
14           I begged the cruelty man, please don't send me back to  
15           Nazareth House. Me and my older sister got sent to  
16           a place in Aberdeen called Craiglea. It was run by  
17           the council and somebody called Mr Smith was in charge.

18           Life at Craiglea was brilliant I felt loved for the  
19           first time. They taught me things and gave me time to  
20           learn. I didn't feel nervous like I used to."

21           In paragraphs 50 and 51 Mary continues to speak  
22           about her memories of her experiences at Craiglea.

23           In paragraphs 52 to 56, the witness then speaks  
24           about her memories of her times in Seafield  
25           Children's Home in Aberdeen.

1           In paragraphs 57 to 73, the witness speaks of her  
2 memories of being at St Euphrasia's in Bishopton.

3           I'll pick the statement up at paragraph 74 on  
4 WIT.001.001.4844, where the witness speaks about her  
5 life after being in care:

6           "I'm not sure how long I was at St Euphrasia's, but  
7 it was more than a year. I got sent home from care when  
8 I was coming up to 15. I went to live with my granny in  
9 Aberdeen. I don't know if there was a date set for me  
10 to leave care and go home. There was no discussion  
11 about me leaving care.

12           "My sister was in Cornhill Hospital by this time and  
13 I was the only one who went to visit her. My older  
14 sister and her husband and son were living with my  
15 granny and she got guardianship of me. This meant that  
16 she got paid for taking care of me after I left  
17 St Euphrasia's."

18           In paragraphs 75 to 78, Mary continues to speak  
19 about her life after care, including her marriage,  
20 children, her learning to read and write properly as an  
21 adult, and some of the jobs she has had.

22           I will pick the statement up at paragraph 80 on  
23 WIT.001.001.4846, where the witness speaks about the  
24 impact of her early life in care:

25           "My family life was so unhappy as a child and as my

1 mum died when I was very young, I never knew what  
2 it would be like to have a family unit. Because of my  
3 behaviour, I saw a psychologist when I was at Seafield.  
4 I have had help and counselling from psychologists and  
5 psychiatrists over a number of years.

6 "A few years ago I opened up to a psychiatrist at  
7 Cornhill Hospital in Aberdeen and he offered me electric  
8 shock treatment to help me forget the past. I refused.

9 "I now have a CPN allocated to me and I tell her  
10 little things about my history. I still get depressed  
11 and have panic attacks and I think that this is a result  
12 of the things that happened to me in the past. I never  
13 felt I was good enough.

14 "I find it hard to trust people in authority because  
15 of what has happened to me and it is hard to trust  
16 social workers.

17 When my kids were small, I found it hard to interact  
18 with them. I tried to give my children the best life  
19 that I could, but emotional interaction was difficult.  
20 I tried to give them a good time but had very few  
21 material possessions.

22 "They were brought up the right way. My children  
23 don't know much about what happened to me [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

1



2



3

"I can't go past Nazareth House even now. My granny was looked after there as an older person as it became a nursing home. She had Alzheimer's Disease. I was appalled that my sister put my granny in there.

4

5

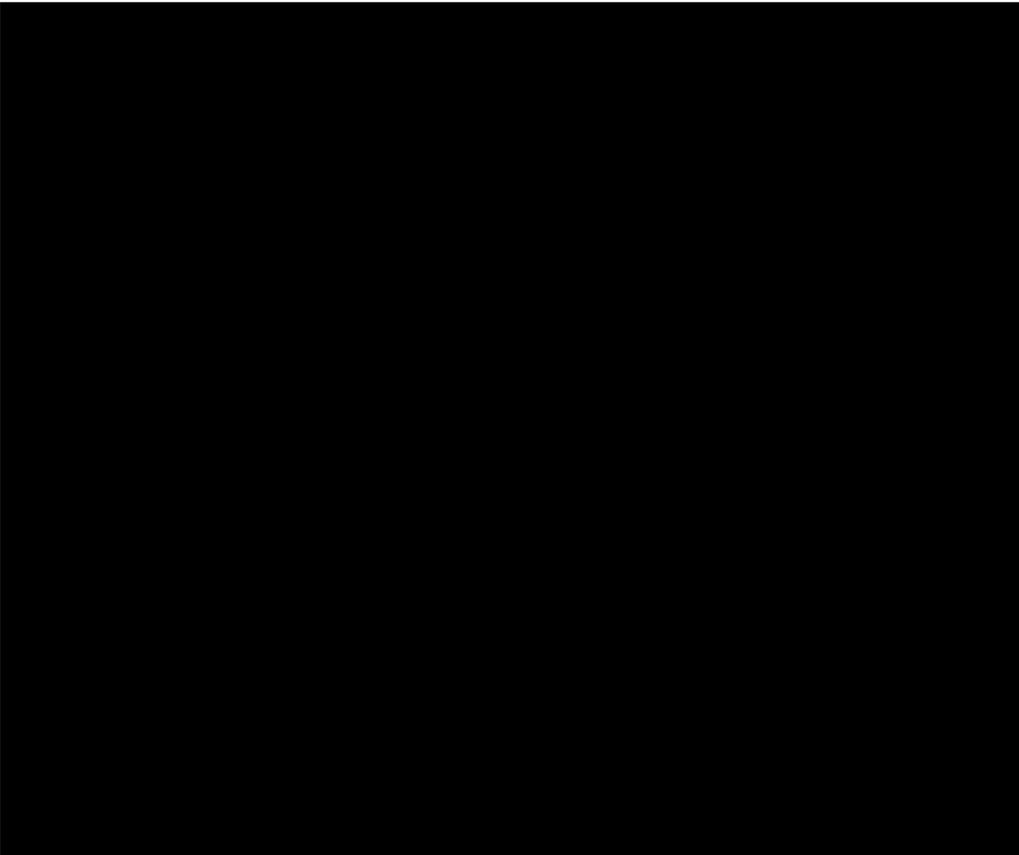
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"I reported the abuse to the police when I was an adult 

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"I have seen my records as I got them from the Social Work Department in Aberdeen. I couldn't read much of them as they made me feel ill and I threw them away.

23

24

25

1           "There were failings in Nazareth House. They had  
2 too many children to look after but that was no excuse  
3 for the way they treated the kids. There was no excuse  
4 for scalding my head and bathing us in Jeyes fluid. It  
5 wasn't humane. I have been scarred for life by that.

6           "The nuns had their favourite children, like the boy  
7 [REDACTED] and there was one  
8 girl who had good at singing. Sister [REDACTED] LTX other  
9 favourite was a girl who even went to a special private  
10 school [REDACTED] The nuns were able to  
11 like some children.

12           "I went into a children's shelter when I was little  
13 and my mum was in hospital. My sisters told me that the  
14 nuns in there were brilliant. I was very young then.  
15 Not all nuns were bad.

16           "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
17 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.  
18 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
19 true."

20           The statement was signed by Mary on 9 February 2018.

21 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

22           Mr MacAulay.

23 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, the next witness is Sister Bridget  
24 Cunningham.

25

1                   SISTER BRIDGET CUNNINGHAM (sworn)

2       LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.

3           It sounds as though you're in a good position for that  
4       microphone, sister, and it's very important that you  
5       stay, in relation to the microphone, in that position so  
6       that it picks you up. I am sure you understand that.  
7       You'll know that your statement's in the red folder.  
8       Mr MacAulay will explain that to you in a moment.

9                   Questions from MR MacAULAY

10       MR MacAULAY: Good morning, sister.

11       A. Good morning.

12       Q. Are you now known as Sister Bridget Cunningham?

13       A. Yes.

14       Q. Were you born on [REDACTED] 1941?

15       A. Yes.

16       Q. So you're now 76; is that right?

17       A. Yes.

18       Q. Could I ask you to look at your statement, sister. It's  
19       in the red folder and the reference for the  
20       stenographers is WIT.001.001.8528.

21           If I could ask you, sister, to go to page 8554, the  
22       very last page. Can you confirm that you have signed  
23       the statement?

24       A. Yes, I have.

25       Q. Do you say in the last paragraph:

1            "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
2            published as part of the evidence to the inquiry"?

3            Is that correct?

4            A. Yes.

5            Q. Do you also say:

6            "I believe the facts stated in this witness  
7            statement are true"?

8            A. Yes.

9            Q. Sister, if we go back to the beginning of the  
10           statement -- you can keep it in front of you if that's  
11           helpful to you -- do you tell us that, for a significant  
12           period of your life as a sister, you were known as  
13           Sister Josaphat?

14           A. Yes.

15           Q. And was that name a name you chose or was it simply one  
16           that was given to you?

17           A. It was given to me.

18           Q. You provide us with some background details as to your  
19           background and that you were almost 19 when you entered  
20           the order.

21           A. Yes.

22           Q. And you professed as a nun in 1963; is that correct --

23           A. Yes.

24           Q. -- when you were about 22 or 23?

25           A. Yes.

1 Q. I think you tell us that, initially, your role, when you  
2 were in Cardiff as a nun, was one of collecting?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What does collecting involve?

5 A. We went out to the street and went to house to house and  
6 shops collecting money for the upkeep of the house,  
7 because we needed the money at the time; there was no  
8 income coming in.

9 Q. As we will see when we move on, I think, when you went  
10 to Lasswade, that was also one of your tasks?

11 A. Yes, I was out collecting every day on the streets,  
12 yes -- bar Sunday.

13 Q. Do you tell us that in October 1963 you went to  
14 Nazareth House in Aberdeen?

15 A. That's right, yes.

16 Q. You were there for a little bit over a year and you left  
17 in 1964?

18 A. That's right, yes.

19 Q. How did it come about, sister, that you went to  
20 Aberdeen?

21 A. I was told by my superior that the head house in  
22 Hammersmith had -- I was to be transferred to another  
23 Nazareth House, which was Aberdeen, to assist  
24 Sister [REDACTED] FAF and do some housekeeping with the  
25 children.

- 1 Q. So you were still in your 20s?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Before Aberdeen, had you had any training at all in the  
4 care of children?
- 5 A. No training whatever, no.
- 6 Q. Did you receive any training when you arrived in  
7 Aberdeen?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. Can we just look at the set-up in Aberdeen, sister, when  
10 you got there? I think what you tell us in your  
11 statement is that there were -- so far as the girls'  
12 section was concerned -- and I think you were in the  
13 girls' section?
- 14 A. Yes, I was.
- 15 Q. There were three groups of girls; is that right?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And can you help me with that? How was that organised,  
18 what was the set-up?
- 19 A. As far as I can remember, there was one group in an  
20 apartment away from the house, the road entrance was  
21 into their place, and also from the big home. Then  
22 there was one group on the ground floor and one ground  
23 on the second floor. There were three altogether.
- 24 Q. The girls and boys were quite separate?
- 25 A. They were in those days, yes.

1 Q. And that would apply whether or not they were siblings,  
2 they were kept separate?

3 A. They were, yes.

4 Q. Can I ask you to look at this document. It's a list of  
5 statistics the order has made available to us. It's at  
6 NAZ.001.001.0265.

7 This is a document that has been provided by the  
8 order. It's headed:

9 "Statistics of numbers of children and babies at  
10 Scottish Nazareth Houses (1925 to 1984)."

11 You'll see the column to left is headed "Aberdeen".

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. If we move down to 1963/1964, can we see that this at  
14 least suggests that there were 60 girls in 1963?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And from what you've been telling us, they were divided  
17 into the three groups you've mentioned?

18 A. That's right, yes.

19 Q. Was that an even division, can you tell me? How was it  
20 done?

21 A. I can't remember. They were in groups when I got there.  
22 I really can't remember how it was done.

23 Q. I suppose it's fair to say, sister, it's 55 years or so  
24 since you were in Aberdeen -- since you went to  
25 Aberdeen.

1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: I see that's 108 children in all in Aberdeen  
3 at the time you went there, sister.

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Girls, boys and babies. How many nuns were  
6 involved in caring for children?

7 A. There were four in the girls' side, as far as I can  
8 remember. That was myself and the other sisters. And  
9 in the boys' part, as far as I can remember, there were  
10 two sisters and the lay staff.

11 LADY SMITH: Okay, thank you.

12 MR MacAULAY: One thing you do tell us in your statement,  
13 sister, is that the groups themselves were quite  
14 self-contained groups.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Can you just help me with that? How was that organised?

17 A. Well, each group would have their own bedroom areas and  
18 their own dining rooms and sitting rooms.

19 Q. To what extent was there any interaction between the  
20 different groups?

21 A. The only thing I can remember is they went out to school  
22 all at the same time together. And they all went, when  
23 I was there, to the beach, all the groups were together,  
24 all the girls, and we went with them. Other than that  
25 I don't know how it went. I can't remember exactly.

1 Q. So far as the group you were allocated to was concerned,  
2 you said that was Sister [REDACTED] FAF [REDACTED] group?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. She, of course, was an older nun.

5 A. She was, yes. She was in charge of the children's care.

6 Q. To what extent, as far as you could see, was she in  
7 charge not just of your group but had some overall  
8 responsibility for the girls?

9 A. I really don't know if she had or not.

10 Q. Can you remember the names of the sisters who had  
11 responsibility for the other two groups?

12 A. There was Sister [REDACTED] LJI [REDACTED] who's deceased, and  
13 Sister [REDACTED] LGN [REDACTED] who's deceased,  
14 Sister [REDACTED] FAF [REDACTED] and myself --

15 Q. Do I understand from what you're saying that the other  
16 two sisters you mentioned did not have another sister  
17 with them?

18 A. No, no.

19 Q. Notwithstanding that, you were not involved in those  
20 groups?

21 A. No.

22 Q. In relation to the boys' side, can you remember who the  
23 sister or sisters were who were there at the time when  
24 you went there?

25 A. There was a Sister [REDACTED] LDR [REDACTED] she's deceased, and

- 1 a Sister [REDACTED] LFD
- 2 Q. Looking at the group you had an involvement with,  
3 what was the age range?
- 4 A. As far as I can remember, there were a little girl --  
5 I would say she was about 6 -- and there were twins  
6 there, they would be only babies, really, walking  
7 around. I would say they were two or three maybe; I am  
8 not quite sure of the age.
- 9 Q. Were there older girls?
- 10 A. Oh yes, the children then, they'd be from 11 to 15/16,  
11 out at school.
- 12 Q. The twins, I think you tell us, were two young boys --
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. -- who were put into the girls' section until they got  
15 a bit older; is that right?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Nazareth House was set-up in such a way that it was not  
18 just a home, a voluntary home, but it was also an  
19 approved school?
- 20 A. That's right.
- 21 Q. How was that organised in reality? How was the approved  
22 school side of things run? Can you tell me?
- 23 A. The children in Sister [REDACTED] FAF's group -- most of the  
24 girls were through the courts, as I understood it.
- 25 Q. The very young ones wouldn't have been.

1 A. No, not the three little ones that I can remember. They  
2 would have come from their own families, I would think,  
3 but the older girls came in from the courts for stealing  
4 or whatever. I wouldn't know what exactly they were  
5 there for.

6 Q. When you were there, sister, how did you address the  
7 children? By that I mean, did you use their first  
8 names, their second names?

9 A. Oh, their first names, whatever they were, Catherine or  
10 Mary, whatever it was.

11 Q. Was that a standard practice then? Did you see, for  
12 example, how Sister [REDACTED] FAF would address children?

13 A. I really can't remember how she addressed them.

14 Q. One thing you say -- and it's in the paragraph on the  
15 screen actually, at paragraph 12 -- is that:

16 "The girls in general weren't the type of children  
17 you'd go about hugging."

18 I just want to understand what you mean by that.

19 A. I don't think they were the type that would want you to  
20 be hugging them. They were quite aloof and had their  
21 own problems, and I don't think they would appreciate me  
22 going round hugging them.

23 Q. What about the younger ones?

24 A. Oh yes, the little ones, yes, the three little ones.

25 Q. Let's look at your role, sister, as you saw it.

- 1           What was your role when you were there in Aberdeen?
- 2       A. Well, I would help to call them maybe in the morning
- 3           with Sister [FAF] Sometimes I assisted at the
- 4           breakfast and then I would walk them down with the other
- 5           sisters down to the front gate or door and they would go
- 6           on the bus to school. Then when they had gone out,
- 7           I would do my own duties as a sister, saying my prayers,
- 8           and then I would go back to the children's department,
- 9           go round, and tidy up the bedrooms, collect any clothes
- 10          and do housekeeping and do their washing and ironing.
- 11       Q. You say in your statement at paragraph 13:
- 12                "I didn't have much responsibility for the
- 13                children."
- 14                Was that Sister [FAF] s job?
- 15       A. That's right, yes.
- 16       Q. But from what you've said, you did have some
- 17                responsibility?
- 18       A. Yes, not with the children themselves. I was just there
- 19                in the dining room to see they were eating their meals
- 20                and then collecting up their washing and checking their
- 21                beds and seeing that they were made properly.
- 22       Q. I think you tell us there was a lady called [FAJ]
- 23                who also worked with Sister [FAF]
- 24       A. Yes.
- 25       Q. What was her role?

1 A. As far as I can remember, she did more or less the same  
2 type of work as myself. She would deal with the  
3 children. Other than that, I can't really remember what  
4 else she did.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. I found her a pleasant lady.

7 Q. One thing you do tell us, sister, is that you weren't  
8 given any instructions as to how to deal with the  
9 children.

10 A. No. Just ...

11 Q. So just so I can understand how this operated in  
12 practice, did Sister [REDACTED] FAF say anything to you  
13 about how you would manage the children?

14 A. Not really. I just would kind of follow suit with her.

15 Q. Were you given any information about the backgrounds of  
16 any of the children?

17 A. No, I wasn't, no. The only thing I knew was that they  
18 came in because of problems with the court and things  
19 like that. That's all.

20 Q. Did you have anything to do with the admission process?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Who managed that?

23 A. Sister [REDACTED] FAF would have done all that.

24 LADY SMITH: So am I to understand that you had the  
25 impression that the vast majority of the children were

1           there because the court had placed them there?

2           A. Yes. Once they said they were approved school children,  
3           I didn't question it, I presumed they were all -- except  
4           the younger ones.

5           LADY SMITH: The order doesn't seem to have kept -- or not  
6           that we've got -- any statistics for which of the, say,  
7           60 girls in Nazareth House Aberdeen were there on an  
8           approved school basis and which were there on other  
9           bases. Am I right about that? Maybe you wouldn't know.

10          A. I wouldn't know, no.

11          MR MacAULAY: I think the puzzle is that we have heard  
12          evidence from quite a number of children who were in  
13          Aberdeen and it's not certainly the impression we have  
14          that these children were sent to Aberdeen through the  
15          courts. Some came from unhappy family backgrounds or  
16          perhaps even were orphans or whatever. But that's your  
17          own recollection --

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. -- that in your group that there were approved school  
20          children in your group?

21          A. That's what I understood they all were, except the three  
22          little ones that I can remember.

23          Q. Notwithstanding that, do I understand the position to be  
24          that these children, the children in your group, went to  
25          the local schools?

- 1 A. They did, yes, with the others.
- 2 Q. Can I ask you a little bit about the sleeping  
3 arrangements from your recollection on that? What was  
4 the set-up there?
- 5 A. As far as I can remember, there would have been rooms,  
6 maybe two or three in a room. I really can't remember  
7 that bit. Some may have had their own rooms.
- 8 Q. Do you remember if there were any dormitories, what you  
9 would call dormitories, or not?
- 10 A. I really can't remember how many, you know -- whether  
11 there were dormitories or just big bedrooms with three  
12 or four in them.
- 13 Q. Okay. In paragraph 12, I've been asked to just put this  
14 to you, you describe the girls in the group as being  
15 happy children.
- 16 A. Well, they appeared happy to me.
- 17 Q. What was it about their behaviour then that made you  
18 think that they were happy?
- 19 A. Well, they were laughing among themselves and watching  
20 television and out playing and that. I didn't see  
21 any -- they didn't say they weren't happy.
- 22 Q. In paragraphs 26 and 27, you talk about mealtimes.  
23 I just want to understand your role at mealtimes. Would  
24 you be present in the dining room when your group was  
25 having their meals?

1 A. Not every day, but I was there mostly at supper time,  
2 when they were having their evening meals, and when they  
3 came in from school for their dinner.

4 Q. What you say in your statement, this is at paragraph 27,  
5 is that you never saw any of the children not accepting  
6 their meals.

7 A. Not as far as I can remember.

8 Q. Did the sisters have the same food as the children?

9 A. Yes, we did.

10 Q. And what was your view as to the quality of the food?

11 A. Well, I never questioned it. I accepted what I was  
12 given and that was it.

13 Q. I will put to you later some comments that have been  
14 made by witnesses in connection with mealtimes, but I'll  
15 leave that until I come to that.

16 In relation to chores, did the children have chores  
17 to do?

18 A. What I can remember -- they used to make their beds and  
19 tidy their bedrooms, dust and sweep, and they used to  
20 use a polisher to shine up the floors. That's all I can  
21 remember about them.

22 Q. You mention your own housekeeping duties. Can I get  
23 a better understanding of that? Did you have cleaning  
24 duties to do, for example cleaning floors, toilets and  
25 so on?

- 1 A. I would check them. I suppose I did clean out -- if  
2 they weren't done properly I would go over them.
- 3 Q. Was it the children who bore the brunt of those cleaning  
4 tasks so far as you can remember?
- 5 A. I wouldn't think so because that lady, FAJ  
6 would be involved in the same work as me, as far as  
7 I can remember.
- 8 Q. I think you say in your statement that there are certain  
9 things you don't really have any recollection of and of  
10 course, as we've indicated, it's a long time ago. For  
11 example, you don't know if children had personal  
12 possessions. You can't remember that.
- 13 A. They would have their own clothes, I would think, and  
14 little bits maybe on their lockers.
- 15 Q. You do tell us about trips to the beach. There were  
16 times when you went to the beach with the children?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Was that in the summertime?
- 19 A. Yes, once the holidays started we went out every  
20 morning, the three groups of girls, the sisters and some  
21 staff. I can't remember how many staff. At the beach  
22 we would have chalets there, food with us, and we stayed  
23 there all day.
- 24 Q. You said every morning?
- 25 A. Yes, except Sunday, I think. I think we didn't go on

- 1 a Sunday as far as I can remember.
- 2 Q. Would that be whatever the weather that you would go to  
3 the beach?
- 4 A. Oh, I wouldn't think so. We walked there, so we'd only  
5 go on the dry days.
- 6 Q. Okay. You do tell us about an occasion when you had to  
7 rescue children from the sea; is that right?
- 8 A. Yes, they were paddling out in the water, pretty deep,  
9 and myself and another sister went out, and as we were  
10 in our habits, and there were only about four or five of  
11 them, we brought them back in again.
- 12 Q. I take it they weren't injured?
- 13 A. No, they were just playing, running out in the water.
- 14 Q. Had they gone out too far?
- 15 A. Well, we thought they had gone out too far, a bit out  
16 in the water would scare you anyway to see them, and we  
17 brought them back in and there were photographers there  
18 taking photographs of them.
- 19 Q. Do I take it from what you've been saying that  
20 supervision was quite difficult then when children were  
21 at the beach?
- 22 A. It was, yes. You had to be with them in case anything  
23 would happen to them, as they went to the toilets and  
24 that, just to see that they didn't do anything out of  
25 place, like going into the shops and that.

- 1 Q. Well, they weren't allowed to go to the shops?
- 2 A. They would go, but we'd have to be supervising them just  
3 in case they were tempted to lift anything.
- 4 Q. I think you tell us at paragraph 38 that you don't  
5 remember any of the children having birthdays when you  
6 were there.
- 7 A. No, I can't remember that at all.
- 8 Q. If there had been birthday parties or birthday gifts,  
9 would that be something you probably would have  
10 remembered?
- 11 A. I would have, yes, I think, yes.
- 12 LADY SMITH: Can I just go back a moment to this business  
13 about the shops? I think you said earlier all the  
14 children from the home would go to the beach, so that  
15 would include children who weren't there on the approved  
16 school basis?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 LADY SMITH: So were they not allowed to go to the shops?
- 19 A. Yes, we went with them, we accompanied them to the  
20 shops.
- 21 LADY SMITH: Why would those children need to be accompanied  
22 to the shops?
- 23 A. It would be mixed children. They wouldn't be just set  
24 aside, the approved school children and the ordinary  
25 children. I didn't realise that they weren't all the

1 same.

2 LADY SMITH: So even if you weren't an approved school  
3 child, you had to be subject to the controls that would  
4 be thought to be necessary for an approved school child.  
5 Is that what it came to?

6 A. I wouldn't say control; you'd just keep an eye on them,  
7 that was all really.

8 MR MacAULAY: We've mentioned birthdays. What about  
9 Christmas? What's your recollection about Christmas?

10 A. I vaguely remember the Christmases, but I do know that  
11 they would have a proper Christmas dinner and toys and  
12 Santa Claus, like any other child.

13 Q. Do you remember that, though, sister?

14 A. I can remember a bit of it, yes. I was only there one  
15 Christmas.

16 Q. I was about to say you were only there for the one  
17 Christmas.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. But do you have a recollection of children receiving  
20 toys at Christmas or are you just simply assuming that  
21 would be the case?

22 A. I think they would have had toys, yes, but I can't  
23 remember what they got or anything like that.

24 LADY SMITH: Do you know, if they had been given a toy at  
25 Christmas, would they be allowed to keep it?

1 A. Oh, they would keep it on their beds on in their  
2 wardrobe.

3 LADY SMITH: After Christmas Day?

4 A. Oh yes. I would think so.

5 LADY SMITH: You think so?

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: Do you know? Do you know that, sister?

8 A. Well, I would think it would be the proper thing that  
9 would be carried out.

10 LADY SMITH: It would be the proper thing to do, wouldn't  
11 it, if a present has been given to a child?

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: The reason I ask is that we have heard from  
14 a lot of people that if they got anything on  
15 Christmas Day, and they were allowed to play with it on  
16 Christmas Day, it was taken away from them at the end of  
17 the day and they didn't get it to have as their own  
18 after that.

19 A. I can't remember that, but I don't think that could have  
20 been done. It was the child's gift and that was it.

21 LADY SMITH: Yes. If a gift is given to the child, the  
22 child should be allowed to keep it for themselves.

23 A. I would have thought so, yes.

24 LADY SMITH: Particularly in circumstances where they  
25 probably had precious few things of their own; is that

- 1 right?
- 2 A. Yes, I think they would have been left their gifts.
- 3 Firms would have brought in gifts, donated them to the
- 4 house for the children, and they would be given to the
- 5 children.
- 6 MR MacAULAY: Can I ask you about records, sister. Did you
- 7 yourself keep any records of the children that were at
- 8 least in your group as part of your responsibility?
- 9 A. No, I did no written work. As far as I can remember,
- 10 I didn't see any records.
- 11 Q. But do you know if records were kept?
- 12 A. I don't really, no.
- 13 Q. What about Sister [REDACTED] FAF
- 14 A. I would think, being in charge, she would have had some
- 15 books to keep.
- 16 Q. But do you know if she did?
- 17 A. I don't know, sorry.
- 18 Q. Do you know, for example, if a file or a record for each
- 19 child under Sister [REDACTED] FAF 's responsibility was being
- 20 kept on an ongoing basis?
- 21 A. I really don't know, no.
- 22 Q. I think you do tell us in your statement that you do
- 23 remember a Home Office inspection taking place.
- 24 A. I do, yes. I remember a lady coming in, yes.
- 25 Q. Was that for the approved school?

1 A. It was just for the whole of the children's place, the  
2 girls' side, yes, just to check their bedrooms and their  
3 bathrooms and their accommodation. That would be  
4 Sister [REDACTED] FAF 's job. She would have known they were  
5 coming.

6 Q. Perhaps I should clarify this. The approved school  
7 section at Nazareth House, I think you think that that  
8 was simply for girls.

9 A. Yes, I think there would have been approved school  
10 children in all the groups, not just in  
11 Sister [REDACTED] FAF 's group, from what I can remember.  
12 But it was only for the girls' side; I know nothing at  
13 all about the boys' side of the house.

14 Q. Do you remember if within your group there were children  
15 from the same family?

16 A. Yes, there were two sisters, I remember them,  
17 [REDACTED], they're the only two girls I can  
18 remember, and there was [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] LBA .

19 Q. That's the twins?

20 A. Yes, and there was one little girl, but I don't remember  
21 her name.

22 Q. Can I ask you now, sister, about discipline. First of  
23 all, when you arrived at Nazareth House, were you given  
24 any instruction or advice as to how children would be  
25 disciplined?

- 1 A. No. No, I wouldn't have any part in that, disciplining  
2 them. I would report anything to Sister [REDACTED] FAF who  
3 was in charge, because I worked under her.
- 4 Q. Is that what you did in practice? If you saw a child  
5 misbehaving then, would you report that to  
6 Sister [REDACTED] FAF ?
- 7 A. I would have, yes.
- 8 Q. Do you remember doing that?
- 9 A. I remember having to get her to come to the dining room  
10 where they were very boisterous and tearing each other's  
11 hair out and throwing tea at each other. I would go for  
12 her then. She may have been present, I can't really  
13 remember, but she would deal with that.
- 14 Q. Do I take it then you never saw any guide, written  
15 guidance or policy, to do with how children ought to be  
16 disciplined?
- 17 A. No, I didn't.
- 18 Q. Do you know if any such guidance existed or not?
- 19 A. No, I don't.
- 20 Q. You do tell us about an incident -- I think it's in  
21 paragraph 52 -- that involved, I think, children  
22 stealing from Marks & Spencers.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. You have some recollection of that incident?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. What happened on that occasion?
- 2 A. We went out as the groups together, all of us, down  
3 shopping for Christmas. Some of them may have been  
4 going home, I can't really remember. We just walked  
5 round the shop and kept an eye out. We saw nothing, but  
6 when we got home, the Marks & Spencers bosses had been  
7 in touch with the house and the children were lined up  
8 and brought into the big room, and the things were  
9 handed up. Some of them may have hidden some of them,  
10 but they went and got them. Then we went back and  
11 returned them to Marks & Spencers, two sisters.
- 12 Q. Do you know what happened to the children who were  
13 involved in this?
- 14 A. Sister [FAF] and the Superior would have spoken to  
15 them. That's all I know. I wasn't present.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 You are aware, I think, sister, that a number of  
18 allegations have been made, for example against  
19 Sister [FAF] and how she treated children. I think  
20 these were put to you or some of them were put to you --
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. -- when you gave your statement.
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. We've touched upon mealtimes already. One of the  
25 allegations that has been made is that if you didn't eat

1           your food, you would get hit by Sister [REDACTED] FAF and  
2           you could be force-fed. Now, what do you say to that?

3           A. I never saw that, never saw it at all in the  
4           dining rooms. I never saw a sister hitting any child in  
5           my presence.

6           Q. Is that throughout your whole time?

7           A. All the time I was there, I never witnessed any  
8           punishment given. It may have been done privately,  
9           I don't know. I know they'd be spoken to by sister, but  
10          I never saw her lift her hand to anybody during my time.

11          Q. The other allegation, general allegation, that has been  
12          made is in connection with bed-wetting. Do you remember  
13          if there were children in your group who did wet the  
14          bed?

15          A. I can't remember. If they did, I would have taken the  
16          sheets and washed them. That would be it, as far as  
17          I was concerned.

18          Q. Well, again, there has been evidence that what would  
19          happen would be that the sheets would be -- the child  
20          would have to take the sheets, possibly put the sheets  
21          on him or herself, and then have a cold bath.

22          A. I never experienced that or seen it in my time there.

23          Q. There has been evidence that Sister [REDACTED] FAF would  
24          beat the child, sometimes with something like  
25          a hairbrush.

1 A. No, no recollection of that.

2 Q. Well, you wouldn't have forgotten that?

3 A. I wouldn't. I think on that I would have gone to the  
4 Superior. I wouldn't like to see a child beaten like  
5 that.

6 Q. So I can be absolutely clear, because I think you did  
7 say earlier that part of your responsibility might be in  
8 the morning getting the children up --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- that you never at any point in time saw a child being  
11 humiliated or beaten in connection with bed-wetting?

12 A. No, I didn't, no.

13 LADY SMITH: And you don't remember a child wetting the bed?

14 A. I can't remember that. It's a long time ago, but  
15 I can't remember ...

16 LADY SMITH: No memory of that being a regular experience?

17 A. No.

18 LADY SMITH: Because again, we have heard a lot of evidence  
19 of it being common for children to wet the bed, even if  
20 they hadn't been wetting the bed before they came into  
21 care, it happening in Nazareth House and other  
22 children's homes, not just Nazareth House.

23 A. I cannot remember it at all. I mean, it is a long time  
24 ago and I've been in 15 houses. I don't really recall  
25 that.

1 LADY SMITH: And you're not aware of established practices  
2 in Nazareth House going back decades and decades before  
3 the 1960s of handling children wetting the bed in ways  
4 that humiliated them, put them into cold baths --

5 A. No.

6 LADY SMITH: -- a belief that putting a child into the cold  
7 bath would get rid of the smell of urine, perhaps set up  
8 a negative association in the brain with wetting the bed  
9 so as to train them to behave differently?

10 A. I never heard any children talking about it even.

11 LADY SMITH: You never heard anyone in the order talking  
12 about that being the way to deal with children who wet  
13 the bed?

14 A. No, we kept our own departments to ourselves and that  
15 was it.

16 LADY SMITH: I see. Thank you.

17 MR MacAULAY: You have mentioned the twin boys who were in  
18 your group when you were there, sister. What age were  
19 they when you were there, do you think?

20 A. They were only tiny little fellas. They might have been  
21 2, really. I can't remember. I remember one of them  
22 particularly, [REDACTED]

23 Q. I don't want to put the name forward, but certainly  
24 there has been evidence from one of those to the effect  
25 that Sister [REDACTED] FAF was very strict. Would you

- 1 describe her as very strict?
- 2 A. I would, yes. She expected me to do as I was told,  
3 which I did, and she would be firm, I would think, you  
4 know, with the children. But I never heard her raise  
5 her voice or hit anybody.
- 6 Q. If a child was not going to do something, being  
7 disobedient, for example --
- 8 A. I don't think they were disobedient. I would they would  
9 generally do what they were asked. They wouldn't answer  
10 back or anything like that, as far as I can remember.
- 11 Q. If a child did answer back, have you no recollection of  
12 a child answering back, being cheeky or anything like  
13 that?
- 14 A. No. I say they might have muttered under their breath  
15 or something, but I can't remember anything like that.
- 16 Q. You say yourself that if she told you to do something,  
17 you would do it?
- 18 A. I would do it, yes, because I was working under her.
- 19 Q. Just going back to her being strict, can you give me  
20 some understanding as to how that would operate in  
21 practice? For example, would she shout at children to  
22 do something? How would that --
- 23 A. She would speak to them and expect them to behave at the  
24 table and go to bed when they were told. That's all,  
25 I would think.

- 1 Q. A practice of a child's head and having the sister's  
2 knuckles either being pressed on, hit on top of their  
3 head has been described in evidence; did you see  
4 anything like that happening?
- 5 A. No, I didn't.
- 6 Q. Were children -- did they have their hair combed by  
7 Sister [REDACTED] FAF ?
- 8 A. I think the older girls would have been able to manage  
9 their own hair. Maybe the little ones might have.
- 10 Q. Did you ever see Sister [REDACTED] FAF with a ruler, using  
11 that as an implement?
- 12 A. No, I didn't.
- 13 Q. What about the use of carbolic soap as a punishment?  
14 I think the suggestion is that Sister [REDACTED] FAF would  
15 put carbolic soap into the child's mouth. Did you  
16 witness any of that?
- 17 A. No, I never witnessed that at all. I can't imagine it  
18 being done.
- 19 Q. What about the use of something like Jeyes fluid at bath  
20 times?
- 21 A. No. Not in my time there, no.
- 22 Q. What do you think of that, putting Jeyes fluid into  
23 a bath for a child?
- 24 A. It would be very cruel. I couldn't imagine it being  
25 done by a sister.

- 1 Q. You do say that you never witnessed Sister [REDACTED] FAF  
2 being affectionate to the children.
- 3 A. I never seen her hugging them or anything like that, no,  
4 but she would be nice to them and ...
- 5 Q. What about yourself? Were you affectionate to children?
- 6 A. I listened to them and I was quite affectionate to the  
7 little ones, but the bigger girls, no, not really.
- 8 Q. Did you ever hear Sister [REDACTED] FAF praising a child?
- 9 A. No, I can't remember, no.
- 10 Q. What about just generally scolding a child?
- 11 A. She might have spoken to them crossly if they wouldn't  
12 behave themselves or they didn't get their school  
13 uniform on properly or something like that, but not in  
14 my presence did she ever scold them or shout at them.
- 15 Q. You have mentioned earlier that the children didn't  
16 require to be told very much to do things. Is that what  
17 you're saying, that they were very obedient children?
- 18 A. They were good children.
- 19 Q. Well-behaved children?
- 20 A. As far as I could see, except for the incident in the  
21 dining room. That was the only time I had any problem.
- 22 Q. If there has been a suggestion that children were  
23 humiliated, demeaned in some way, criticised constantly,  
24 that's just something that is not anything you witnessed  
25 when you were there?

1 A. I didn't see anything like that and, if I did, I would  
2 have reported it to the Superior.

3 Q. Well, sister, I have taken you fairly briefly through  
4 the types of allegations that have been made, which  
5 would relate to your own time there. I fully understand  
6 your position, that you didn't witness any of this, but  
7 if there were the sort of bed-wetting practices that  
8 I've mentioned to you, the humiliation, the physical  
9 beatings and the force-feeding, would you at that time  
10 have seen that as being abuse?

11 A. I wouldn't say abuse at that time, but I would say it  
12 was very cruel, and I would have told the Superior if  
13 I'd seen it.

14 Q. If it's cruel, would it not be abuse?

15 A. I suppose it would, yes.

16 Q. Did you ever see [REDACTED] FAJ [REDACTED] who you've mentioned,  
17 smack a child?

18 A. No. I thought she -- she used to talk to the older  
19 girls, I used to see her talking with them, but I never  
20 saw her raise her hand to them.

21 Q. I've been focusing on Sister [REDACTED] FAF [REDACTED] because,  
22 of course, it was she that you were working with, but  
23 what about other nuns, did you see other nuns punishing  
24 children?

25 A. No, because we were all independent groups. I wouldn't

1 be in their sitting rooms, I'd be in the sitting room  
2 with the group I was sent to help Sister [REDACTED] FAF  
3 with.

4 Q. If we turn to paragraph 71 of your statement, there's  
5 reference -- there's a witness who says:

6 "There was never any nurturing. There was no love  
7 or genuine care. There was a coldness about your life."

8 Does that in any way, from your perspective, reflect  
9 what life was like for children?

10 A. I would say the sisters were very kind to the children  
11 and that. Was it a coldness in their life, you mean?

12 Q. What he's saying is that there was no love, no genuine  
13 care, coldness about the life, he wasn't allowed to cry  
14 as that would make things worse.

15 A. I would think any child would cry. Nobody would stop  
16 them from crying or being happy.

17 Q. Did you see children crying?

18 A. I can't remember, really.

19 Q. Can you remember if you went to comfort a child that was  
20 crying?

21 A. If I did see a child crying, I would give them a hug or  
22 ask them what was wrong, but I have no recollection.

23 Q. You have no recollection of it?

24 A. No.

25 Q. You left Nazareth House in Aberdeen, I think, in 1964;

- 1 is that correct?
- 2 A. That's right, yes.
- 3 Q. How much notice were you given that you were actually  
4 going to leave?
- 5 A. Usually a week's notice.
- 6 Q. At that time you moved to where?
- 7 A. I see on the statement I got word from Hammersmith.  
8 I went on to Lancaster and I was out collecting on the  
9 streets there.
- 10 Q. Did you eventually move to Nazareth House in -- I think  
11 we refer to it as Lasswade, although sometimes it's  
12 referred to as Bonnyrigg?
- 13 A. Yes, I was in Hammersmith and then I was transferred to  
14 Lasswade.
- 15 Q. And I think you were in Lasswade, according to what you  
16 tell us, in September 1967; is that right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And you left in March 1968?
- 19 A. That's right.
- 20 Q. So you were only there for about six months?
- 21 A. That's right, yes. I was on the collecting, out begging  
22 on the streets there again.
- 23 Q. Are you able to say why it was that you were in Aberdeen  
24 for just over a year, I think, and then Lasswade later  
25 on for only six months? What's the thinking behind

- 1 spending so little time --
- 2 A. That was our life. We spent so many years or months in  
3 different houses to experience the work of the  
4 congregation and you just were told you were being  
5 changed and you just went and did as you were told.
- 6 Q. Did you think that you had built up any sort of  
7 relationship with the children who were within your  
8 group in your care when you were in Aberdeen?
- 9 A. Not really. I knew that I wouldn't be there all my  
10 life, I knew that I would be moved on, and not having  
11 been fully involved with them, I wouldn't say I got  
12 attached to them or anything like that. I just did as  
13 I was told, move on.
- 14 Q. So far as Nazareth House in Lasswade is concerned,  
15 can you just tell me a little bit about that? That was  
16 a smaller place; is that right?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And you've mentioned collecting, but I think you also  
19 had responsibilities for children?
- 20 A. No, I wouldn't be too much involved with them. I would  
21 get them up in the morning with the other sister and see  
22 to their breakfast, and then I would get myself to Mass  
23 and get ready and go out. I'd be out all day.
- 24 Q. Can I ask you again a little bit about the set-up. Was  
25 it another group type of set-up that you had in

- 1 Lasswade?
- 2 A. Yes. I think there were two three or four groups --
- 3 they were mixed groups there.
- 4 Q. Were you attached to a particular group and a particular
- 5 sister?
- 6 A. Sister [REDACTED] LFJ . I used to kind of work in with her, then
- 7 she would look after the place while I was out at the
- 8 collecting. I would come back in in the evenings,
- 9 I would have my prayers and my meal to get, and some
- 10 evenings I might go over to the dining room, see the
- 11 children, and another time I would sit in with them when
- 12 sister would have a break or the other sisters needed
- 13 somebody to replace them.
- 14 Q. So just to be clear about the group sizes then, how many
- 15 were in the group that Sister [REDACTED] LFJ had?
- 16 A. They'd be more than 20 maybe in each group. I really
- 17 can't remember.
- 18 Q. Did you say a moment ago there were three groups?
- 19 A. As far as I can remember, yes.
- 20 Q. Were the three groups based in the same building or were
- 21 there different --
- 22 A. There were three of us in the house and I think there
- 23 were children over in another building near the road.
- 24 But I didn't know them -- like, I knew the sisters there
- 25 but I wasn't involved over there because my job was

1 collecting, really.

2 Q. Just to get an understanding of the numbers when you  
3 went there, sister, we'll go back to that document at  
4 NAZ.001.001.0265.

5 Again, if we look to the top, we can see that  
6 Lasswade here -- if we look for "Edinburgh" on the far  
7 right. If we move down to the bottom, towards the date  
8 1967, can we see, for 1967 into 1968, according to this,  
9 there were perhaps 24 to 30 girls, but there were also  
10 49 to 56 boys; do you see that?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Indeed we see there were quite a lot of babies in  
13 Lasswade.

14 A. There were none in the department I was in. No babies  
15 at all. They would have been in Holycote, the house  
16 near the road, yes.

17 Q. Although, as I think you've indicated, sister, your main  
18 job was collecting, you did have some responsibilities  
19 for the children; is that right?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Again, did you receive any training when you went to  
22 Lasswade, either before or when you got there?

23 A. No, I didn't.

24 Q. Were you given any information about the background to  
25 any of the children that --

- 1 A. No, no.
- 2 Q. One task you tell us that you did have was walking the  
3 children to school; is that right?
- 4 A. Yes, myself and another sister. We had to -- because  
5 the people on the road going to the school complained  
6 about their behaviour. The children were ringing door  
7 bells and emptying dustbins, so we went every morning,  
8 one sister at the head of the group and one at the back,  
9 and we got them into the schoolyard and spoke to the  
10 headmaster.
- 11 Q. I think you've indicated that the children in Aberdeen  
12 seem to have been well-behaved children. Was this  
13 a different situation then, the children seemed to be  
14 indulging in some misbehaviour?
- 15 A. The children in Aberdeen got the bus outside the front  
16 door, so I wouldn't know in what way they behaved on the  
17 bus or anything like that. We didn't go with them. But  
18 these children were only youngsters, like other  
19 children, and would play up going along the road.
- 20 Q. This wasn't an approved school unlike Aberdeen?
- 21 A. No, it was just ordinary children, whatever their  
22 circumstances was, I really don't know.
- 23 Q. And the age range for the children in the group in  
24 Sister LFJ's group when you were there, can you help  
25 me with that?

- 1 A. I know there were a few small ones, but their ages  
2 I wouldn't remember. They were mixed, all school age.
- 3 Q. This were boys and girls in the group?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Were there families within the group?
- 6 A. I can't remember that, no. I was mostly out, as you  
7 know.
- 8 Q. The other nuns who were there at that time, can you  
9 remember their names?
- 10 A. There was Sister **LFJ** Sister Patrick Joseph, who's  
11 deceased, and Sister **LFD** came. That's all I can  
12 remember of them.
- 13 Q. What about the sleeping arrangements? Can you remember  
14 what the sleeping arrangements were at Lasswade for your  
15 group?
- 16 A. I would imagine there were three or four in rooms.  
17 I really cannot recall the set-up. I would say there  
18 was no more than three or four in each room or  
19 dormitory, whatever they called them.
- 20 Q. Again, just looking at some aspects of the routine and  
21 what happened. For example birthdays, do you have any  
22 recollection if anything happened on a birthday?
- 23 A. I don't really, no. No.
- 24 Q. You were there for one Christmas; is that correct?
- 25 A. I went there in ... I can't remember when I went there

- 1           now. It's gone out of my head.
- 2           Q. I'm looking at paragraph 92 of your statement.
- 3           A. I went in September there, I think. Yes, I would have
- 4           had a Christmas there, yes.
- 5           Q. Do you remember how Christmas was celebrated?
- 6           A. I would think they had a good Christmas, toys. I do
- 7           know a lot of firms in Lasswade would have come in with
- 8           gifts for the children and we would put them round the
- 9           beds and whatever for Santa Claus.
- 10          Q. So do you remember that happening?
- 11          A. I remember that, putting them round myself, yes, with
- 12          sister, yes. I can't remember birthdays again.
- 13          Christmas was well enjoyed there.
- 14          Q. Again, can I ask you about keeping records. Did you
- 15          yourself keep any records?
- 16          A. No.
- 17          Q. Do you know if records were kept particularly for the
- 18          children in your group?
- 19          A. No, I would think the senior sister there would have
- 20          done all that.
- 21          Q. Again in connection with discipline, just so I can be
- 22          clear, were you given any advice as to how children
- 23          ought to be disciplined?
- 24          A. No.
- 25          Q. So what did you do if a child misbehaved?

1 A. I wasn't there all the time with them. I would speak to  
2 them and Sister LFJ would, I suppose, correct them.  
3 But I've never seen any slapping or abuse there. None  
4 whatsoever.

5 Q. But were there any punishments?

6 A. Not that I remember.

7 Q. For example, depriving a child of pocket money or some  
8 event? Did that happen so far as you can remember?

9 A. No. I didn't have anything to do with the pocket money.  
10 The sister would give out the money, but I can't recall  
11 anything like that.

12 Q. I should have asked you this about Aberdeen: did you  
13 know if there was a punishment book kept for Aberdeen  
14 where punishments might be recorded?

15 A. I don't know anything about it, no.

16 Q. Similarly for Lasswade then, you don't know anything  
17 about that?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Just looking at discipline and punishment, again you do  
20 remember one particular event that you tell us about  
21 when you were woken up by Sister LFJ and children had  
22 been up to mischief; is that right?

23 A. They had run away in the night and the police had them  
24 in the parlour downstairs. She came to me and said that  
25 she had a few children down in the parlour with the

1 police and there was one missing of the group near my  
2 bedroom where I slept. I had to sleep there because  
3 there wasn't accommodation in the convent for me. There  
4 was only the one out of my place and the police spoke to  
5 them and that was it.

6 Q. So they had run away from the home?

7 A. Yes, during the night they went out, yes.

8 Q. What ages were they? Can you remember?

9 A. Oh, I'd say the lad would be 10 or 11. I don't know  
10 what the other children were.

11 Q. How many children had run away?

12 A. It might be three or four of them.

13 Q. Do you know why they ran away?

14 A. No. I suppose the chance just to get away and cause  
15 a bit of a problem. I don't really know.

16 Q. Did children run away when you were in Aberdeen?

17 A. They did quite a few times, yes.

18 Q. Was that something that was spoken about by the nuns,  
19 because clearly it's a matter of concern if children are  
20 running away from that sort of establishment? Was it  
21 discussed?

22 A. We didn't discuss it as a community because what  
23 happened in each department was kept in the department.  
24 But the Superior would have been notified and she  
25 herself would have gone out with Sister FAF and

1 the driver to pick them up from the police station or  
2 they'd be there waiting for them when they came in.  
3 I wouldn't be involved in their homecoming or anything  
4 like that.

5 Q. What punishment would children, whether it be in  
6 Aberdeen or Lasswade, get for running away?

7 A. I would have presumed they got a good talking-to, but  
8 other than that, I don't -- I wasn't involved in  
9 anything in that respect.

10 Q. So you never saw what --

11 A. I never saw it, no.

12 Q. You also tell us about an occasion when children went  
13 into a neighbouring golf course.

14 A. Yes. That was at the side of Lasswade house. They used  
15 to go through the hedge there and fill up all the holes  
16 for the golf and maybe take some golf balls with them,  
17 and the people would report them, and the police would  
18 come in and get the children in the room and have a good  
19 talk to them.

20 Q. What about the home itself? What punishment would be  
21 given to children who did that sort of thing?

22 A. I would think they would have got a good talking-to from  
23 the sisters. Again, I wouldn't be present for any of  
24 that because I was out most of the time.

25 MR MacAULAY: My Lady, it's coming up for 11.30. I haven't

1 far to go with the sister, but it might be time.

2 LADY SMITH: Sister, we always have a break in the middle of  
3 the morning for everybody's benefit, including  
4 particularly the stenographers, who we give a break to  
5 after an hour and a half. We'll take the coffee break  
6 now and come back shortly.

7 (11.28 am)

8 (A short break)

9 (11.45 am)

10 MR MacAULAY: Sister, I just want to put some allegations to  
11 you that have been made in the evidence in this case  
12 about Lasswade and just see whether or not any of this  
13 chimes with yourself.

14 It has been suggested in evidence that bed-wetters  
15 would be lined up in the corridor during the night and  
16 given cold showers. Does that ring any bells with you?

17 A. No, I wouldn't be up in the night anyway and no child  
18 ever told me that.

19 Q. And they would be ridiculed and sheets put on their  
20 heads and standing in a corner?

21 A. I didn't see anything like that and I never heard it was  
22 either.

23 Q. There was also a suggestion that there was daily  
24 punching, kicking, pulling hair?

25 A. No, not in my time. I wouldn't have been in during the

1 day, but I've never heard a child complain -- or they  
2 didn't come to me if that was going on.

3 Q. Did Sister [REDACTED] LFJ have a cane?

4 A. Not as far as I can remember. She was a tiny little  
5 person, a very kind little soul. I never saw her with  
6 any canes.

7 Q. It has been suggested that she hit children on the back  
8 of the legs with a cane; did you ever see that?

9 A. No, I didn't.

10 Q. Was there a practice in your time of children being made  
11 to kneel in a group in a corridor facing the wall?

12 A. No, not in my time.

13 Q. What about children being made to eat their food; did  
14 you see anything of that?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Were you present at mealtimes?

17 A. Not at every meal, no. I never saw anybody being  
18 force-fed or made to eat a meal if they didn't want it.

19 Q. Again, sister, if these allegations were true and took  
20 place at that time in the 1960s, would you consider  
21 these to constitute abuse?

22 A. Yes, I would. Again, I would use the word "cruel"  
23 because abuse wasn't out in my time. I would think it  
24 was very cruel and I'm sorry for any child that had to  
25 go through this if they did, if they say they did.

1 Q. Of course, as you say in your statement, there's never  
2 been a complaint against you, and that is the case,  
3 isn't it?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. If we turn back to your statement then, sister, at  
6 paragraph 107, and your closing thoughts. What you say  
7 there is:

8 "I think the people who are making allegations might  
9 have a chip on their shoulder about being in a care home  
10 and not being with their own families. Maybe that's  
11 affected their lives since."

12 I wonder, can you explain what you mean, what your  
13 thinking is there?

14 A. I would say that it affected their lives and that they  
15 resented -- more than a chip on their shoulder, resented  
16 being in care. It was cruel for them to be away from  
17 their families and they must have felt that, being away  
18 from their parents.

19 Q. Do you think if a child has a happy and positive  
20 experience in care that the child would then resent  
21 having been in care?

22 A. I think they would because of not being with the father  
23 and mother. That would be cruel enough for them.

24 Q. So even if they were well looked after and cared for,  
25 you still believe they could have a resentment towards

- 1           those who cared for them in that way?
- 2       A.   Well, they seem to have when they're making these
- 3           allegations, but I think the lack of having a father and
- 4           a mother, especially a father, in their life ...
- 5       Q.   Okay.  Can I also ask you this: have any children kept
- 6           in touch with you since you were either at Aberdeen or
- 7           Lasswade?
- 8       A.   No, I've never heard from any children, no.
- 9       MR MacAULAY:  Very well, sister.  That's all I want to ask
- 10           you.  I think I have sought to cover the questions
- 11           I have also been asked to put to you.
- 12       A.   I do apologise if any child has been abused in the care
- 13           of the sisters and I'm sorry for them.
- 14       MR MacAULAY:  Thank you, sister.
- 15       A.   Thank you.
- 16       LADY SMITH:  Sister, we were told some time ago by
- 17           Sister Anna Maria Doolan that vows taken by the sisters
- 18           included to provide a service to children in a way that
- 19           provided a loving and caring environment; were you aware
- 20           of that?
- 21       A.   We took a vow of poverty, chastity and obedience.
- 22       LADY SMITH:  Did you ever direct your minds specifically to
- 23           any obligation to provide a loving and caring
- 24           environment for the children?
- 25       A.   That's what would have been expected of us as religious.

1 LADY SMITH: Was there any particular guidance as to how to  
2 go about doing that?

3 A. You would know as a woman that care and love was most  
4 common in women to look after people.

5 LADY SMITH: So how would you have expected the sisters to  
6 show loving and caring attitudes to the children?

7 A. I would expect us to be kind and listen to them and --  
8 not that I gave cuddles to any older children, but to  
9 love them and comfort them if they needed care and  
10 loving and understanding.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 Let me check: are there any outstanding applications  
13 for questions of this witness? No.

14 Sister, that's all the questions we have for you.  
15 Thank you very much for helping us with both your  
16 written statement and the oral evidence you've given  
17 today. I'm now able to let you go.

18 A. Thank you very much.

19 (The witness withdrew)

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Housekeeping .....1

Witness statement of "MARY" (read) .....3

SISTER BRIDGET CUNNINGHAM (sworn) .....24

Questions from MR MacAULAY .....24